

SOUTH RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Roseburg District Office
EA# OR-105-00-05

Date Prepared: June 28, 2000

Finding of No Significant Impact

The South River Field Office, Roseburg District Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has completed the environmental assessment for the South River Watershed Restoration proposal. Two alternatives were analyzed consisting of a proposed action identified as Alternative 1, and a no action alternative identified as Alternative 2. The Alternatives are described in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Assessment, pages 3-8.

The following Critical Elements of the Human Environment would not be affected by the proposed South River Watershed Restoration: Air Quality; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); Environmental Justice; Non-Native, Invasive Species (Noxious Weeds); Prime or Unique Farmlands; Wastes, Hazardous or Solid; Wild and Scenic Rivers; Wilderness; and Visual Resource Management.

The proposed watershed restoration projects would not occur in/on wetlands, park lands, prime farmlands, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.. No unique characteristics would be impacted, as described in Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, section 1508.27 (b)(3).

There would be no affect on potential Native American Religious Concerns. Issue identification in the course of the analysis, and correspondence with local tribal governments did not identify any concerns (CEQ Regulations 1508.27 (b)(8)).

Watershed restoration would not have any effect on cultural resources. Surveys have cleared most sites, and the remaining sites will be surveyed prior to implementation of any restoration projects at those sites. If surveys identify cultural materials, concurrence on a determination of cultural/historical significance would be sought from the Oregon State Historical Preservation Office prior to project implementation. If the site is significant, the relevant project area(s) and restoration projects would be modified or eliminated. As a consequence, there would be no impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (CEQ Regulations 1508.27 (b)(8)).

The Thompson Creek tree-lining project is the only project in the restoration plan identified within the Marbled Murrelet Management Zone that is within ¼ mile of suitable habitat. Implementation of the proposed Thompson Creek tree-lining project would remove up to 30 trees that represent suitable habitat for the marbled murrelet, and could also affect murrelets as a consequence of noise disturbance, if project work is conducted during the nesting season. This would constitute a "may affect-likely to

adversely affect" determination for the marbled murrelet. The Thompson Creek project would also constitute a "may affect-likely to adversely affect" determination for the northern spotted owl. The project would remove up to 30 trees that represent suitable nesting, foraging and roosting habitat from within the home range of two owl pairs, and within the 100-acre core area of one of the pair. Noise disturbance could also be a consequence if project work is conducted during nesting season. The following projects are located within the home ranges of northern spotted owl pairs, but would not remove suitable habitat and would only constitute a "may affect-not likely to adversely affect" for noise disturbance if the activities occur within ¼ mile of nesting owls during the nesting season: Weaver Creek culvert replacement in T. 28 S., R. 3 W., Section 33; replacement of the culvert on Days Creek located in T. 29 S., R. 3 W., Section 13; in-stream work on Days Creek in T. 29 S., R. 3 W., Sections 23 and 27; and renovation and decommissioning of segments of Road No. 29-4-23.1 in T. 29 S., R. 4 W., Section 23. The Oregon Coast coho salmon is found in the five fifth-field watersheds in which projects are planned, and the proposed projects are considered a "may affect, likely to adversely affect" for this species. Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is pending. Terms and Conditions contained in the Biological Opinions of each agency, would be implemented in order to minimize take. The anticipated impacts would be within the range analyzed by the ROD/RMP. There would be no significant adverse impacts to these special status species (CEQ, section 1508.27(b)(9)).

The proposed actions do not threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law (CEQ, section 1508.27(b)(10)). The impacts of the proposed action on the human environment do not exceed those anticipated in the PRMP/EIS.

As a result of the analysis, of the ten points listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b), the following were considered and were found not to apply to the proposed action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and no precedents for future actions with significant effects.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that the proposed action will not have significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the *Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

E. Dwight Fielder
Field Manager
South River Field Office

Date